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Secretary of State Police

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GEORGE H. RYAN
Secretary of State

Serving with distinction

As Secretary of State, I am proud to oversee one of the oldest statewide law enforcement agencies in Illinois: the Secretary of State Police. Founded in 1919, this department serves all citizens of Illinois through its 181 sworn peace officers and 47 civilian support personnel.

Many people are interested to learn of the variety of services this police force provides. For example, officers recover stolen vehicles, assist in the disposal of hazardous explosives, and conduct public education events to promote traffic safety.

The men and women of the Secretary of State Police are a source of pride for all of us. They serve our state with distinction and are always pleased to have an opportunity to help you, the citizens of Illinois.

George H Ryan

GEORGE H. RYAN
Secretary of State

Duties

The Secretary of State Police serves the public by:

- promoting traffic safety
- enforcing laws governing businesses that deal with vehicles and their parts
- providing law enforcement in the State Capitol complex
- inspecting salvage vehicles for stolen parts
- helping dispose of hazardous explosive devices and chemicals
- training other governmental agencies in the Illinois Vehicle Code and other police-related subjects

Organization

There are a number of components to the organization of the Secretary of State Police.

Springfield is home to the Police Command Center (and support service personnel) and the Police Inquiry Unit, which responds to emergencies and law enforcement inquiries on a 24-hour basis.

In addition, the department has four uniformed districts and a statewide Auto Theft District.

The Auto Theft District, in turn, is made up of four units that work with other law enforcement agencies. Operating undercover, each unit tracks auto thieves, holds surveillance over suspected "chop shops," infiltrates auto theft rings, and conducts "sting" operations. The results are impressive: in fiscal year 1990, the department recovered 138 stolen vehicles — at a value of more than $900,000.

Special Units

The Department of Police has several special units with distinct functions:

Emergency Response Team. Handles high risk situations, such as civil disturbances, disasters and hostage-taking — all of which require the use of specially trained personnel. Especially focuses on property maintained by the Secretary of State in Springfield.

Special Event Team. Helps oversee large special events at the Capitol complex: public gatherings, demonstrations, parades, and visiting dignitaries.

Bomb Squad. Consists of five highly trained investigators — all certified bomb technicians. Capable of handling, transporting, disarming and disposing of explosive devices and chemicals.

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Salvage Vehicle Inspection Stations. Using four stations around the state, executes law requiring inspection of all rebuilt vehicles. Also has mobile units for field inspections.

Underwater Investigation Unit. Has 15 specially-trained members who recover stolen vehicles from bodies of water. Also assists city and county agencies.

Honor Guard. Seven-member unit that represents the department at ceremonies, parades and funerals.

DUI Enforcement

Supported by federal funds, the Secretary of State Police conducts an "Anti-Drunk-Driving Enforcement Project." Through this effort the department hires off-duty investigators to patrol selected routes and apprehend alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers. Key to these patrols is the use of video camcorders, donated by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and Aetna Insurance.

Training

During the investigators' 12-month probationary period, they attend a certified 10-week Basic Law Enforcement Course and an advanced six-week training program. In order to apply their learning in the final phase, trainees are then assigned to field training investigators.

Information about hiring is available at the nearest Secretary of State Police District Headquarters.

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For Secretary of State Police services in your area, please contact:

Command Center, Springfield,
(217) 782-7126
Support Services, Springfield,
(217) 786-6226
Police Inquiry Unit, Springfield,
(217) 782-7126

Uniformed Districts:
District #1, Maywood, (708) 343-8088
District #2, Rockford, (815) 987-7560
District #3, Springfield, (217) 796-6209
District #4, Mt. Vernon, (618) 244-4525

Auto Theft:
Westchester, (708) 344-2307
Loves Park, (815) 877-6775
Springfield, (217) 786-6193
East St. Louis, (618) 398-7813

Salvage Vehicle Inspection Stations:
Chicago, (708) 646-5320
Fairview Heights, (618) 397-2476
Morton, (309) 266-6521
Springfield, (217) 786-6005

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